Survey for Kollengode-Trichur Rail Line

4051. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted year before for laying new railway line from Kollengode to Trichur under the Madhurai division in Southern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work on above line is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Development of Telecommunications Network

4052. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the development work of telecommunications network has been below expectations during 1996;

(b) whether the Government propose to take concrete measures to accelerate pace of development work in telecommunication sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir. The target of 20 lakhs fixed, during 1995-96, for provision of new telephone connections was fully achieved and every effort is being made to achieve the target of 24.5 lakhs for 1996-97.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to provide about 29 lakh telephone connections during 1997-98 which is about 18% higher than the targets for 1996-97.

(d) Does not arise in view of (b) and (c) above.

[English]

Stoppage to Train at Kharagpur Railway Station

4053. SHRI RUP CHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide stoppage to Train No. 2421/2422 at Kharagpur for the benefit of passengers; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not justified.

Survey for Running Passenger Service

4054. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since taken any decision to conduct a survey to run passenger service on Howrah Circular Railway from Howrah to Howrah via Ramkistopore-Shibpurchar-Shalimar-Santragachi-Belanagar-Belur-Liluah;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to conduct survey to fulfil the long standing demand of the people of West Bengal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) The survey for a passenger line between Howrah and Shalimar was carried out during 1991-92. On the west side of the area between Howrah and Shalimar, there are houses, jute mills, factories, flour mills, etc. On the East side i.e. river front there are a number of warehouses and small factories. The ware-houses and factories are located right upto the bank of river Hooghly.

There are a number of sidings taking off from the existing rail line between Howrah and Shalimar serving the mills, ware-houses, and factories, etc. There are 12 level crossings on this short stretch of about 4 km. The curvature of track is excessive and this will have to be flattened which will require dismantling of 45 godowns and 25 buildings. For running any passenger services all the sidings will also have to be closed.

Hence, provision of Howrah Circular Railway on the pattern of Calcutta Circular Railway is not technically feasible.

Underground Telephone Cables

4055. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was any proposal for putting/ laying underground telephone cables/lines to avoid faults during the rainy seasons in the country;

(b) if so, to what extent the said work has been completed; and

(c) by when the remaining one is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.